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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Fortification Construction in the
Split Area
25X1A

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Large-scale fortification of the entire area around Split was begun in the spring of 1950. The center of the work project is located south of Knin, and is concentrated in the following two regions:
 - a. In the valley of the Cikola River, on the highway leading from Sibenik to Knin via Drnis.
 - b. In the valley of the Cetina River, over Mts. Lozjak, Svilaja, and Mosor, to the mountains above the town of Makarska.
2. Reportedly, bunkers and underground tunnels which would serve as troop shelters, or as underground depots, are being built. Also, semi-permanent infantry fortifications are reportedly being built along all the mountain tops, so that they dominate the valleys and block the passes which lead to the above-mentioned valleys. Large underground caverns are also being constructed along the slopes.
3. Work on these fortifications is being done exclusively by the Army; partially by reservists in work battalions and partially by the personnel of entire regiments from nearby garrisons. The total number of soldiers employed in this work is from 15,000 to 20,000. The work is carried on both night and day.
4. The construction material is brought in mainly from Split. The entire output of the cement factories at Sveti Lajo and Sucurac near Split, which are working at full capacity, is brought to the construction site. The cement reinforcements are brought in from Knin.
5. All civilians are forbidden access to the construction area. Strong KNOJ and Militia units have occupied all neighboring villages and settlements, and prevent the population from approaching the construction area. All villages and settlements in the construction area have been evacuated and the population settled elsewhere. Civilian homes have been taken over by the Army. It is not known whether the evacuation is of a temporary character.

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